# FIRE DESTROYS EQUITABLE BUILDING; 5 DEAD, MANY MISSING, \$15,000,000 LOSS



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18 PAGES

### DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION CAPTURED BY BALTIMORE; JUNE 25 IS THE DATE SET

National Committee Chooses the Maryland City for the Presidential Gathering.

\$100,000 CHECK READY.

St. Louis Figured as Second Choice and Chicago Third-New York Got One Vote.

WASHINGTON, Jan 9-The Dem eratic National Convention will be sid in Bultimore, boginning June 2 the choice was made late to-day by ie Democratic National Committe centatives of Baltimore, St. Louis rescrited the claims of those cities n detail. The announcement of th result of the vote in the committee was

Two ballots were taken. On the firs Baltimore received 22 votes; St. Louis 15; Clileago, 3; Denver, 6, and New

In presenting Baltimore's but for the envention Representative Talbox of Maryland made the opening speech and Sanator Rayper pursued the argument O. F. Hershy spoke for Robert Craft

raying the expenses of the conven- mer pastor. on a contribution of \$40,000 to the on octatic campaign fund. Edward M. Tierney spoke for New

New Yorkers had subscribed \$100. near to Tammany Hall." St. Louis made a hard fight for the

much as anybody else." A specific offer of \$75,000 and the convention was preferred, but the sentiment did not turn Denver offered reasonable and neces

ics embodying the permissive plan for confined there until the week begin-Presidential Primaries, which means ning Sunday, May 19, "when the warthat State committees can call them at The committee then finally ad-

BALTIMORE, Jan. 8.-The Democratic Nastonal Convention of 1912, which the I to Baltimore, will be held in the Fifth structure of granite surmounted by nain floor. Having an area of 200 by an feel, the main, or drill hall, archiectural experts say, will seat comfortasly more than 12,000 persons, allowing There are two balconies and if necesat either end of the building, the seating capacity can be increased to more serties can be made almost

apany rooms, twenty-one in grouned in suites, are admirastapled to committee rooms, and the than that which was marked out to .masium, immediately behind the

et apart for the press. The armory is situated in the northvalking distance of the Pennsylvania 14 Haltimore and Ohlo Raliroad sta-

Sunday World Wants Work

#### RICHESON TO DIE IN CHAIR MAY 19; HE PLEADS GUILTY

posed in Court as He Hears His Doom.

IN ANSWERING.

Prisoner in Court Only Six Minutes and Crowd Barred Out-Will Ask Clemency.

Richeson, self-confessed slayer of Avis Lincell of Hyannis, pleaded guilty to he electric chair some time during the

reek of May 13. Richeson left the Charles street ja about 12 o'clock, accompanied by Sheriffs, and was quickly driven to the Suffolk County Court. A great throng besieged the building and jammed the ourt, eager to see the prisoner and hear his fate pronounced.

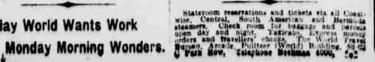
having business there were admitted to the courtroom where the proceedings were held, and the throng had to

time in the history of the commonthe records of the court a plea of guilty to murder in the first degree. Richeary expenses for the convention and son's pedigree was quickly taken, and promised to be liberal. It was asserted then Judge Sanderson imposed senhat Denver had the best convention tence in the language of the code, dihe committee adopted a call for dele- the State prison at Charlestown and

den will put you to death in the man-ner prescribed by law." about seven minutes. pale, but he was perfectly composed. His answers to the Court were made in ol to Baltimore, will be held in the Fifth a firm, low voice. A slight limp was slegiment Armory, Baltimore's largest the only indication of the injuries he inflicted on himself some weeks ago.

town prison, but would be the object of elected to the Senate by corrupt executive clemency later on. "Of course we shall petition Gov. Foss Va., when questioned as to the future following the minister's plea and sentence. Attorney Lee declared that the

Gov. Poss yesterday permitted it to h understood that he would entertain petition for a commutation of sentenand part of the city and is within easy and submit it to the Executive Council It is said that the latter stand six : three in favor of commuting Richeson ons. It is fifteen minutes' ride by sentence to imprisonment for life and that the Governor is likely to accept



Seif-Confessed Murderer Com-

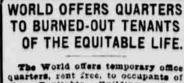
Few besides the privileged and th Caltimore, offering in addition to de- content with a hasty view of the for

Clerk Manning called the defendant and he stood up. He sas asked if he wished to retract his plea of not guilty to the indictment which charged him old and wealthy, committed suicide in house of August Beimont & Co., was on to back the bid of the metropolis, with murder in the first degree, and he her apartment at No. 746 St. Nicholas hustled with scant ceremony out of his but many of the committee members replied in the affirmative. He was then avenue to-day, by shooting herself in own offices early this afternoon. The thought the biggest city in the coun- asked what plea he desired to make, the right temple with a revolver, after Beimont offices are in the five-story try was "too close to Wall Street and and he replied guilty in the first de-

A nod from the black-robed figure on convention with a standing offer of "as the bench and the cierk for the second discovery of her suicide. wealth of Massachuzetts entered on recting that the murderer be taken to

> The proceedings were void of sensaions. Richeson was in purt for only It is believed almost certain that Richeson will not have to explate his crime in the electric chair in Charles-

or commutation of the sentence," said plans of counsel for Rev. Mr. Richeson, clergyman's counsel have done their utmost for him up to the present time and that no other course was open to them



The World offers temporary office quarters, rent free, to occupants the Equitable Suilding who places of business were burned of to-day.

to-day.

Those desiring to obtain such quarters for the time being and without delay will be accommodated if they will apply at once to the superintendent of the Palitre: Building.

## Taken From Top of the Trinity Building HALF BILLION BURIED Photographed for The Evening World by a Staff Photographer. Bird's-Eye View of Equitable Building Fire



#### AUGUST BELMONT WEALTHY WOMAN USES GAS AND GUN TO END HER LIFE

Mrs. Buffington Turns on Jets Financier Complains to Mayor Into Her Temple.

having turned on the gas. It was the building at No. 23 Nassau street, next smell of the gas escaping under the door to the Equitable. door of her apartment that led to the

Mrs. Buffington had a son, Kenneth, twenty years old, who is at Amherst

#### LORIMER ON THE STAND DENIES BRIBERY CHARGES.

His face was Senator in His Own Defense Declares He Did Not Pay to Influence His Election.

WASHINGTON. Jan. 9.—Senator banker hastened toward Wall street the flames and smoke to the windows, to make his way along with difficulty, orimer this afternoon took the witternoon took ness stand in his own defense before the Senatorial committee which is investigating the charges that he was

anything of value to anythody for yo election?' asked Attorney Hancey for Lorimer

one, categorically denied any knowl-

#### HERO GIVEN HIS FREEDOM.

Oktahoma.

IS HUSTLED AWAY

Treated Rudely.

August Belmont, head of the banking

"You can't stay here," he was told.

when he was ordered out.

and rude treatment.

Charman was released from Hart's Island to-day secure a week parts to hopdre him with any false hope ago be jumped into the East River and lie knew what had happened Inside the building while Wash was groping his charman had it days more to serve, its was sent to Blackasil's island last wholed that the building while washed to the windows and he was continued in the building while washed to the windows and he was continued to the Fire Department of May, 1892, at the age of twen to serve and he was sent to Blackasil's island last windows and he was continued to the Fire Department of May, 1892, at the age of twen to serve and he was appointed to the Fire Department of May, 1892, at the age of twen to serve and he was assigned to long the mean in May, 1892, at the age of twen to serve and he was assigned to long the mean in May, 1892, at the age of twen to serve and he was assigned to long the mean in May, 1892, at the age of twen to serve and the was assigned to long the was made an engineer in 1815, as sistant foreman on July 21, 190, foreman on Dec 27, 1902, and Battalion on Dec 27, 1902, and Batta July for soling comine, and with an overcome and had perished other originar, was transferred to "In my opinion," said the Hart's island a short time ago.

# FIRE CHIEF WALSH DEAD,

"You Fellows Beat It, I Can Take floors on the Pine street side with an almost priceless law library. It Care of Myself," His Last Command-Widow Overcome.

"You follows beat it. I can take care of myself."

Mr. Belmont managed to get through the fire lines and was entering his offic College. She also had a married daughter, Mrs. Jefferson Deason of Kittany.

Pa.

The dead woman left several notes, which are being held unopened until the arrival of her husband, whose whereabouts are unknown.

The dead woman left several notes, which are being held unopened until the abouts are unknown.

The dead woman left several notes, which are being held unopened until the are." was the reply. "Go out, abouts are unknown.

The dead woman left several notes, which are being held unopened until the are." was the reply. "Go out, abouts are unknown.

The dead woman left several notes, which are being held unopened until the please."

Mr. Belmont vent, Outside he appealed to the firemen, but they were too busy to listen. The banker became of hot emoke. On the third floor through a stiffing pail to the third floor through a stiffing pail to be busy to listen. The banker became of hot emoke. On the third floor the career of the battalish chief:

"You can't stay here," he was told.

"I am a tenant of this building," extruggling in his company toward the windows of the third floor on the Broadway side of the building at 7.30 o'clock.

Walsh had been partially disabled by falling debris. With his three subordinates and the fire patrol man he had fought his way down from the fourth fought his way down from the fought his way d

excited and hurried up is City Hall. little party ran against a wall of fire where he sought an interview with which they had to break through to fourth floor doing salvage work when Mayor Gaynor and complained of rough save themselves. Mayor Gaynor and complained or rough late them that Battalion Chief men apeared through the smoke. The Mayor declined to discuss what Walsh issued his last command. He

CONFESSES TWO MURDERS, they looked back for the Battallon The smoke was so thick it was pitch dark, but we could see red fire all around is. The firemen shouled to me that he was missing. Chief Kenion was notified and way to the Broadway windows. CHICAGO, Jan. 2.—Frank Hollaway, directed that a search be made on the "In some way we became separate thirty-two years old, who is also known third floor. No trace was found of the from the Battalion Chief. We though

chich \$315,000 was stolen. been in circulation. One report was up to us to set out to the air or suc.

He also said he was wanted for two that he had been rescued from the cumb to the smoke and fire. We fought vaults of the Mercantile Safe Deposit our way to the windows and reported Company into which he had fallen from the third floor. Another was that he was in Gouverneur Hospital. At 8.45 (the Walsh was a typical freenance operator at Fire Hiver Rescue Wins Prisoner Re- Just called him up and told of figuring where he would not go him it, and

"In my opinion," said the chief to Commissioner Johnson, at 10 o'clock,

"we'll find poor Walsh's body in the wreckage on the second floor." These were the last words of Chief William J. Walsh of the Second Bat- that Walsh had lost his life. Chief Kentallon, who lost his life in the fire. They were addressed to three firemen and a for him. There was a chance that he nember of the Fire Patrol who were might have been caught in some pocket

sort of olutions he had been able to apply to Mr. Helmont's wounded feellings. After making the complaint the Blindly they groped their way through

thirty-two years old, who is also known under different names, made a statement to the police beday in which he confessed that he was concerned in two bank robberies, one at Panama and one at New Westminster, B it, in which \$25,000 was stolen.

Third floor. No trace was found of the was all we saw him behind us but when we started for him he disappeared. Then two bank robberies, one at Panama and one at New Westminster, B it, in been in circulation. One report was been in circulation. One report was up to us to set out to the air or suc-

o'clock a telephone operator at Fire brave and resourceful, in love with his work. He never asked his men to go the fire from the roof of an adjoining iton of Honor of the Department is building. Chief Kenion did not allow these to. He was appointed to the Fire Depart

(Continued on Second Page.)

# IN ASHES OF BURNED EQUITABLE BUILDING

Great Spread of Fire Due to Hall Hour's Delay in Sending Alarm-Then Aid Is Summoned From Brooklyn.

TRADING ON EXCHANGE STOPPED BY CONFUSION

Score Rescued by Heroic Firemen-Only Outside Walls of First Skyscraper Left Standing.

With a loss which may reach fifteen millions of dollars fire to-day destroyed the great gray building of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, a landmark of Broadway for many years, stretching from Cedar street to Pine street on Broadway and through to Nassau street,

At least five men were killed. There are nearly a score more not accounted for, who may have lost their lives when the fire puffed through the building with the suddenness of a series of explosions.

More than \$500,000,000, in cash, stocks and bonds, is estimated to be locked up in vaults in the building. There is \$350,000,000 in cash and securities in the Equitable vaults alone, and millions more in the vaults of the Equitable Trust, the Mercantile Trust and Safe Deposit vaults, brokers' and bankers' private safes, and those of lawyers. The vaults were all reported intact, with contents unharmed, at 1 o'clock,

The loss on the building alone is \$5,000,000. This does not include the sumptuous fittings of the Lawyers' Club, which occupied the upper does not include the equipment of the Cate Savarin or the furnishings and libraries and records of scores of lawyers who served some at richest clients in the world.

BUILDING WAS CITY'S FIRST SKYSCRAPER.

The building was the first great office building of New York with all the extravagance of the old Henry B. Hyde regime, research and marble were used lavishly in its construction. A "skyscraper," it was only eight stories high.

Before the fire was declared under control the emire inside of the building had fallen through to the cellar, and nothing was left but outside walls. These were declared to be unsafe and the streets w. cleared of firemen and apparatus. As the flames died down the torrenof water froze and the building became a mountain of ice, with festories

So far as could be learned, the Equitable Society carried no Insur-

Because of the securities held up in the many vaults in the building, and the difficulty of making deliveries to-day, the New York Stock Exchange suspended all deliveries for the day and will prolong the period until the vaults can be reached. It was an unprecedented pro-

FIREMEN RISKED LIVES TO SAVE OTHERS.

Thrilling rescues were made by firemen, who risked their own lives recklessly whenever there was a prospect of saving others. President Giblin of the Mercantile Deposit Company was literally sawed out of the steel barred windows of the deposit vault. The list of injured firemen would read almost like a roll call of the department. Only those with disabling injuries reported their names to their commanders.

The known dead are:

WILLIAM J. WALSH. Chief of the Second Battalion of the Fire Department.

WILLIAM CAMPION, captain or Marcantile Deposit watchmen, JOHN SAVZI, cleaner,

JOHN CONTO, cleaner

MASSANA FRATTA, a cleaner.

The three cleaners had gone to work in the Savarin restaurant kitchen at 5 o'clock. They were eaught on the roof and jumped to death. There were tifteen other men in the cleaning gang. It is impossible yet to know whether they escaped or not.

Fear that some, if not all of them, perished were increased when tenants of the Trinity Building reported that six men had gone out on